

SEEK FIRST

Welcome!

Happy New Year! And perhaps a congratulations is in order, too? So far, you have perfect church attendance!

As we enter the new year, most of us spend at least a little time thinking about our goals. Some call them resolutions, and write them down. Some prefer to keep their new year's goals more "organic", leaving room to adjust along the way.

But almost all of us reflect, refocus, and re-align.

Today's sermon will help you. As you start off a new year, with aspirations of improvement and an upgraded life, I invite you to consider the wisdom of Jesus as you set your goals.

Brett

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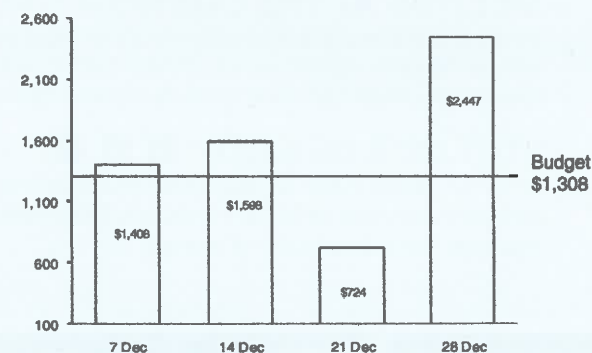
FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2015 - AUG 2016

YEAR TO DATE (17 WEEKS)

-10.49% deficit on giving

YTD Budget \$ 22.231M
YTD Giving \$ 19.899M
YTD Variance \$ -2.332M

PAST 4 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)



	7 Dec	14 Dec	21 Dec	28 Dec
Weekly Budget	1,308	1,308	1,308	1,308
Weekly Giving	1,408	1,598	724	2,447
Weekly Variance	100	290	-584	1,139

GIVING TO ISLAND ECC We encourage those who consider Island ECC their church home to prayerfully give a percentage of their income to the church on a regular basis.

Cheques payable to 'Island ECC Ltd' for HK tax receipts or to 'Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc.' for US citizens. More info at islandecc.hk/give. Enquiries to karen.kwok@islandecc.hk.

ISLAND ECC

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FIRST

More Or Less?

January 3 2016 9.30am, 11.30am, 3pm, 5pm
633 King's Road, 1/F, 2/F, 10/F

HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY PRAYER AFTER SERVICE

We want to encourage the church to set aside time to pray today wherever you are and if you need to pray with people, feel free to approach our prayer volunteers at the front. Kindly leave the sanctuary quietly and respect those who are praying.

TODAY SEEK FIRST CALENDAR AVAILABLE

Island ECC 2016 calendar is based around God's prompting to seek first the kingdom of God. It features beautiful photography taken by our church around the city. The calendar is available on 1/F, 2/F and 10/F at \$50 each.

TODAY ARK DRAGON BOAT SIGN UP

Join Island ECC's Dragonboat Team, ARK, for a season of fun, fitness and fellowship. Trainings are every Sunday afternoon at Stanley starting February 21, and every Wednesday evening for land training. Sign up at the 1/F Connect Counter after our 9.30 or 11.30 service. Fee is \$1800 (cash or cheque only). For more information, contact eccdragonboat@gmail.com.

TODAY PRAYER RETREAT – REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Today is the last day to register for the outdoor prayer retreat in Mui Wo on January 16. Pay \$100 at the 1/F Connect Counter (lunch included). For questions, email prayer@islandecc.hk.

CLASSES

REGISTER AT ISLANDECC.HK/CLASSES

JAN 10 THE RISE OF ISLAM (PART I)

Hardly a day goes by without the reporting of news related to the Muslim world. Every Christian must be prepared. This 4-week course introduces you to Islam, strengthens your Christian faith, and equips you to respond with respect and confidence. Completion of this class is a pre-requisite to taking Part 2, to be offered in April 2016. Workbook cost: HK\$150. 2.30-4.30pm, 10/F Classroom.

JAN 17 BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS – PALESTINE BEFORE JESUS

Who were the Pharisees, Sadducees or Zealots? Why did they have such trouble with Jesus? Why did Jesus use a Greek translation of scripture? What is apocalyptic literature? Who wrote the Dead Sea scrolls and why are they important? Join Martin Radford for this 6-week class to learn more about the 400 "Silent Years" better known as the period of Second Temple Judaism. 11.30am, 8/F Classroom.

JAN 17 BAPTISM CLASS

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith. If you're interested in being baptised, please plan to attend the 2-Sunday baptism class starting on January 17, 5pm (both classes required). You can register by emailing baptism@islandecc.hk.

JAN 17 GROW DISCIPLESHIP COURSE AND LAUNCH PARTY

Interested to grow stronger as a disciple of Christ? GROW discipleship course (formerly known as 2:7) starts Sunday, January 24, 9.30am or 11.30am. Join us at the GROW launch party on January 17 to find out more about this life-transforming course. 1.30-3pm, 10/F Worship Hall. Free lunch provided.



OUTREACH

JAN 10 ELIC UPDATE: INSIDE NORTH KOREA

For every pastor who's imprisoned in North Korea, there are also signs of encouragement and stories of praise. Come hear how English teachers are bringing light to the Land of Morning Calm. 9.30am, 8/F Classroom. RSVP to go@islandecc.hk.

JAN 24 OUTREACH OPEN HOUSE

Open to anyone interested in missions at Island ECC. No previous experience necessary! Light lunch provided. 1.30pm, 10/F Worship Hall. Get your free ticket at any of our Connect Counters.

JAN 29 & 30 SSP X-PERIENCE

What does life in Sham Shui Po look like? Hope of the City is running a two-day experience for participants to take a guided tour of our work, visit cubicle homes, serve in a soup kitchen etc. and stay overnight at SSP. \$500 per person. Limited to 20 people. For more details and registration, email info@hopeofthecity.com.

OPPORTUNITIES

COORDINATOR

We are looking to hire a full-time Coordinator in our Ministry Support team to assist with the functional aspects of our church and ministries. Excellent interpersonal and administrative skills required. Both good English and Cantonese fluency (spoken and written) are required. Email hr@islandecc.hk with a cover letter and CV.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

We are looking for a full-time Accounting Assistant to work in the church's busy Finance Department. Good math and computer skills, especially Excel, are required and a willingness to develop accounting skills. Email hr@islandecc.hk with a cover letter and CV.

SERVE WITH THE PRODUCTION CREW

Looking for a new way to serve this year? Join the Production CREW and help make the lyrics and visuals come to life in our services. For more information contact crew@islandecc.hk.

NEW TO ISLAND ECC

MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER

1 We are so glad that you're here today and would love to get to know you! Visit the Connect Counters on 1/F, 2/F and 10/F. Volunteers are there to answer any questions you might have about Island ECC and its different ministries and events.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

2 Check out www.islandecc.hk, where you'll have access to information about all our ministries and events, as well as a broad spectrum of resources - including weekly blog posts and video podcasts of sermons.

Youth Conference "Emulate"



3 JANUARY 2016

More Or Less?

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not **worry** about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by **worrying** add a single hour to your life?"

²⁸ "And why do you **worry** about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹ So do not **worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But **SEEK FIRST** His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not **worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will **worry** about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:25-34